

# Calendar No. 1087

68TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 1024

## TO COMPENSATE THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF MINNESOTA FOR TIMBER AND INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH THE SETTLE- MENT FOR THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL FOREST

FEBRUARY 3 (calendar day, FEBRUARY 6), 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HARRELD, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted  
the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 27]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 27) to compensate the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota for timber and interest in connection with the settlement for the Minnesota National Forest, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 568, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

There is also attached a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, under date of January 23, 1925.

[House Report No. 568, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 27) to compensate the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota for timber and interest in connection with the settlement for the Minnesota National Forest, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

Your committee has carefully considered this legislation and unanimously recommend the enactment of same. The facts regarding the bill are fully set forth in the letter from the Secretary of the Interior which is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, February 6, 1924.

Hon. HOMER P. SNYDER,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,*  
*House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SNYDER: Further reference is made to your letter of January 3, 1924, with reference to H. R. 27, "A bill to compensate the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota for timber and interest in connection with the settlement for the Minnesota National Forest."

Under the act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 268-269), a commission of three persons was appointed to appraise the property in the Minnesota National Forest Reserve, and this commission, on January 16, 1923, submitted their findings to the department, and the same were approved and afterwards, upon appeal, approved by the President of the United States. Said appraisement is as follows:

(a) Value of the 5 and 10 per cent of timber reserved from cutting.....	\$336, 684. 33
(b) Value of timber on the 10 sections, islands, and points.....	914, 830. 09
(c) Value of the land included in the forest reserve.....	238, 681. 16
Total amount awarded.....	1, 490, 195. 58

The value of the timber on the 10 sections embraced in item (b) was appraised as of the date of the award, but the property involved in the other three items was appraised as of May 23, 1908, as this apparently was the purpose of the legislation with respect thereto.

At the time the act of May 23, 1908, was passed it was apparently contemplated that the said appraisal and award would be made within a short time, but for various reasons the appraisal was not finally approved by the department until January 31, 1923, so that the Indians have lost approximately 14 years' interest on those items, and the amount of this interest from January 31, 1909, is \$402,755.84. Under the circumstances, and inasmuch as the delay was not due to any fault of the Indians, it is believed that such an amount should be allowed the Indians by way of further compensation.

Repeated efforts have been made by the General Land Office to dispose of the timber on 18 small tracts widely scattered throughout the forest reserve, but without success. The appraisal committee estimated that a total stand of 15,833 feet of white pine and 28,500 feet of Norway pine on these scattered tracts have a minimum valuation of \$183.17, and it recommended an appropriation of that amount.

The appraisal committee also found that certain tracts of land within the said forest reserve had been wrongfully classified as agricultural land, and that they, as a matter of fact, contain sufficient quantities of merchantable timber to entitle them to be classified as pine lands. The timber of these tracts was excluded from sale for the reason that the lands were classified as agricultural land, and a table furnished the committee by the superintendent of logging for the General Land Office on November 27, 1922, shows that the said tracts contain merchantable timber, as follows:

	Feet
White pine.....	900, 000
Norway pine.....	1, 214, 000

and that at the minimum value fixed by law this timber, at the time of appraisal, was worth \$20,000, and the appraisal committee recommended an appropriation to cover this item.

These three items together make up the total amount of \$422,939.01 included in H. R. 27. The department believes these several amounts are justly due the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota and recommends favorable consideration of the bill to your committee and to the Congress.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, January 23, 1925.

Hon. J. W. HARRELD,

*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.*

MY DEAR SENATOR HARRELD: Reference is made to your letter of January 9, 1925, submitting, for an expression of my views thereon, a copy of H. R. 27, an act to compensate the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota for timber and interest in connection with the settlement for the Minnesota National Forest, which passed the House of Representatives on January 5, 1925.

On December 30, 1924, this department submitted a report on Senate bill 3290, a bill to compensate the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota for timber and interest in connection with the settlement for the Minnesota National Forest. The two bills are identical, and I am, therefore, sending you a copy of our said report of December 30, 1924, which will give you the information desired in connection with the present bill. We said in our former report: "The depart-

ment believes that these several amounts are justly due the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, and recommends favorable consideration of the bill by your committee and the Congress."

The Director of the Budget on June 3, 1924, in commenting on our proposed report on Senate bill 3290, stated that the proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, December 30, 1924.

Hon. J. W. HARRELD,

*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.*

MY DEAR SENATOR HARRELD: Further reference is made to your request, submitting for an expression of my views thereon, Senate bill 3290, a bill to compensate the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota for timber and interest in connection with the settlement for the Minnesota National Forest.

Under the act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. L. 268-269), a commission of three persons was appointed to appraise the property in the Minnesota National Forest, which commission, on January 16, 1923, submitted their report and findings to the department and the same was approved on January 31, 1923, and later, upon appeal, was approved by the President of the United States. Said appraisement is as follows:

(a) Value of the 5 and 10 per cent of timber reserved from cutting.....	\$336, 684. 33
(b) Value of timber on the 10 sections, islands, and points.....	914, 830. 09
(c) Value of the land included in the forest reserve.....	238, 681. 16

Total amount awarded..... 1, 490, 195. 58

The value of the timber on the 10 sections embraced in item (b) was appraised as of the date of the award, but the property involved in the other two items was appraised as of May 23, 1908, as this.

At the time the act of May 23, 1908, was passed it was apparently contemplated that the appraisal and award would be made within a short time; but for various reasons the appraisal was not finally approved by the department until January 31, 1923, so that the Indians have lost approximately 14 years' interest on these items, and the amount of this interest from January 1, 1909, is \$402,755.84. Under the circumstances, and inasmuch as the delay was not due to any fault or delinquency of the Indians, it is believed that this amount should be allowed them by way of interest compensation.

The appraisal commission recommended also that the two other small amounts be added to the proposed interest payment. It was found that the General Land Office was unable to dispose of the timber on 18 small, widely scattered tracts throughout the forests, the timber thereon being estimated to be worth \$183.17.

The appraisal committee also found that certain tracts of land within the forest reserve had been wrongfully classified as agricultural lands, and which, as a matter of fact, contained sufficient quantities of merchantable timber to entitle them to classification as pine lands; and they appraised the timber on these tracts at the value of \$20,000, and recommended that this amount be also added to the interest payment.

These three items together make up the total amount of \$422,939.01, which is the amount included in said Senate bill 3290.

This bill is similar to H. R. 27, upon which favorable report was made to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the House of Representatives, and which bill is now on the House Calendar. The Bureau of the Budget has advised that this proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

The department believes that these several amounts are justly due the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, and recommends favorable consideration of the bill by your committee and the Congress.

Very truly yours,

E. C. FINNEY, *Acting Secretary.*

